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The University of Dayton

April 2, 1982

Dear Brother,
John Britt would
like to have the enclosed
considered by the Senate.

Best wishes,
Gordon Tucker

PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Discontinue SAT or ACTSUBMITTED BY: John F. BrittDATE: March 30, 1982

Indicate the action required: Legislative, Concurrence, or Consultative, and refer to the appropriate reference in the Senate Constitution (Article IIB, 1, 2, 3).

ACTION IS: _____ REFERENCE IS: _____

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: State objectives, rationale, and how proposal is to be implemented.

When something is unnecessary yet required it lessens an institution's credibility. This is the case with the SAT or ACT. There are other ways of determining a student's suitability. SAT or ACT cost the student. This is a special burden upon the poor. The results are difficult for the student and the student's parents to understand. The tests are actually group tests. Group tests are not valid for the individual. The use of group tests for selection are for the good of the administration. Proportionally fewer poor selections or failures will result, but those who would succeed are also disqualified. The rationale is the ones selecting do not want to spend for the training of those who fail. In our case the students are willing to take a chance upon U.D. Those who get a fairly low score do not know that many with that score succeed here. With a changed selection policy, we would be able to decide upon what is really necessary and only require that.

See Be enclosed.

Re-think test policy, panel urges colleges

WASHINGTON (AP) — A National Academy of Sciences panel is urging undergraduate colleges to re-examine their mandatory use of admissions tests taken by nearly 2 million high school students each year.

A report released today by the academy's Committee on Ability Testing concluded most colleges are not highly selective, so students who apply to them should not have to incur the "unnecessary expense and inconvenience" of taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Test.

"There is also danger that students with poor or mediocre test scores may be discouraged from applying even to non-selective institutions in the mistaken belief that their chances of being admitted are small," the panel said.

THE 19-MEMBER committee was established by the academy's national research council.

Lyle V. Jones, a University of North Carolina testing expert and panel member, told a news conference, "We have all taken (ability tests), our children take them and no doubt our grandchildren will take them. . . . Our committee does not agree with those who would do away with testing."

He said tests are not "systematically" biased against minorities, who on average score lower than whites. But he said society should take steps to reduce the potential adverse impact of tests on minorities.